-42-

ANTICIPATING MEDIA DECAY IN A DISC DRIVE

Abstract of the Disclosure

A procedure for estimating bit error rate (BER) for disc media in a disc drive is disclosed. Initially, the BER estimation procedure writes random data to specified tracks on the disc media. The procedure then reads the specified tracks over predefined time intervals to determine a BER for the disc media at the termination of each interval. Using the determined bit error rates, the procedure extrapolates the BER values to generate a decay graph representative of a BER slope over the time period comprising the time intervals. The decay graph is then used to estimate BER for the disc media at a predetermined time, such as the end of the expected life of the disc drive.